



ACSI A.C.E. Student Success Center SEMINAR TOPICS

Presented by Vernard T. Gant

Best Practices for Effectively Serving A.C.E Students

Research has demonstrated that to effectively teach academically disenfranchised, culturally different and economically disadvantaged children a school must contain three essential elements. These elements are like the three legs of a stool—all three are necessary for the school/educator to function properly and successfully achieve high levels of academic rigor. The three elements pertain to the school, the staff, and the student. This seminar will expand on each of the components and how to cultivate them.

Student Academic Assimilation

A major challenge confronting many Christian schools is how to effectively assimilate low performing students into a rigorous academic program. This seminar will show that the educational needs of low-achieving students can be met if schools will (1) adopt certain beliefs and attitudes, (2) put in place the right processes, and (3) support those processes with the right institutional resources. Successful academic assimilation is not a specialized ministry limited to schools possessing infrastructure special or rarefied resources. Academic assimilation only requires determination and knowledge, and therefore can (and should) be practiced by all schools.

Mindset

Practically all schools have their share of disengaged and unmotivated students. A major challenge for Christian educators is how to address student apathy and stimulate student motivation and engagement. This seminar provides educators with the six steps designed to do just that. It addresses the underlying factors for demotivated learners and equips teachers with practical tools and procedures for motivating students to own and become more active in their education.

Cultural Adaptation—Addressing Diversity and Inclusion

This seminar offers a unique biblically based approach to addressing social, racial, and cultural differences. Participants will be equipped with information, tools, and practices that will enable them to be more culturally competent in their efforts to serve diverse populations. It also provides a framework for addressing cliques, bullying, teasing, and factions.

Student Cultural Assimilation

Increasing numbers of children are starting schools without the cultural skills and disciplines that make for an inadequate learning experience and productive shared values with others. This is often due to home environments where these skills are not taught and/or practiced. This seminar will present material and information for understanding and addressing the factors hindering these children from adjusting to the culture of the school and how to effectively impart them.

Student Economic Accommodation (Educating Low Resource Students)

With the advent and expansion of various publicly funded parental choice program and philanthropic giving Christian schools are increasingly opening their doors to serve children from low and moderate

income families. This seminar is designed to assist Christian schools in assessing their readiness and capacity for effectively serving children who have economic disadvantages that impact upon their education. Administrators and educators will be provided with practical tools and practices for accommodating low-resource students and their families.

Three-Dimensional Teaching

Historically, education and education reform have focused on 2 dimensions—head and hands. The head involves the teaching content and teacher credentials. The hands involve the teaching conduct and pedagogy. Effective teaching, however, involves a third critical component—the heart which is the interpersonal/inspirational dimension of education. This seminar will equip the Christian educator with:

- Knowing the role that the heart plays in effective education
- Practices that cultivate matters of the heart
- A greater awareness of the potential impact a three-dimensional educator can have on the educational plight of all children and especially the educationally disenfranchised and economically disadvantaged children

Administrative Leadership

The times are dictating the need for transformative leadership. Transformative leaders function as change agents who leave an indelible mark upon those they lead. This seminar will look at the characteristics, distinctions, and development of a transformative leader with a focus on the changing dynamics of Christian schools and Christian school education. This is particularly geared toward administrators of schools targeting and serving children who are academically disenfranchised, culturally different, and/or economically disadvantaged. This breakout session is not about how to efficiently run or operate a school but on how to effectively lead one.

Identifying and Treating Cognitive Skills Deficiencies

Research shows that 80% of learning difficulties is related to weak cognitive skills. Cognitive skills are the foundation for all learning. Without proper cognitive skills, learning is difficult if not impossible. This seminar will address a tool that identifies and treats cognitive skills deficiencies.

Fund Raising and Development for Christian Schools Serving A.C.E. Students (Academically Disenfranchised, Culturally Different, and/or Economically Disadvantaged Children)

Christian schools targeting and serving students who are academically disenfranchised, culturally different, and/or economically disadvantaged have a unique opportunity to secure sizeable contributions in their endeavors. These schools can make the transition from being completely tuition-based to being contribution-based. Philanthropic based schools have increased possibilities of surviving and thriving. Proven, successful fund development approaches will be presented at this seminar including how to structure the board and implement fund development strategies.

How to Start a Christ-Centered School for A.C.E. Students (Academically Disenfranchised, Culturally Different, and/or Economically Disadvantaged Children)

Like any business endeavor, the success of starting a school depends largely on good planning. To start a program that not only appears excellent but is excellent in curriculum, instruction, and delivery requires months and months of planning. This seminar provides the necessary steps to effectively plan the start-up of a Christ-centered school targeting and serving children who are academically disenfranchised, culturally different, and economically disenfranchised.

Education Reform and The Christian School Movement

The plight of academically disenfranchised and economically disadvantaged children has been at the heart of education reform in this nation for nearly a half century. This seminar takes an in-depth look at the history and current state of education in America and the role that Christian educators can play in bringing about true education reform.

Working with Disconnected Parents and Disengaged Students

Children growing up in the 21st century are not being parented in the way and to the degree as children during just one generation ago. Many children are growing up in single parent homes and even children from two-parent families are experiencing low parental engagement in their education and decreased parental involvement. Increasing numbers of children are starting school and matriculating through school without the home and support structures that have historically been in place and made for meaningful and effective educational experiences. This seminar will address how to work with both the parent and student to foster a more productive learning environment while minimizing home/school tension.

KEYNOTE MESSAGES

KINGDOM SCHOOLS ENGAGED IN POWER EDUCATION (Keynote)

In the gospels, the kingdom of God was manifested by its power to affect people at the point of their brokenness. They were given instructions to heal, deliver, and restore while declaring that the kingdom of God had come near. The Christian school has the authority and the ability to serve as a kingdom agent in today's society. Christian schools can administer academic, social, emotional, and spiritual healing to broken students and families demonstrating God's love for them and His willingness to address them at their point of brokenness.

THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR CHRIST-CENTERED URBAN EDUCATION (Keynote)

This message will look at the biblical emphasis in reference to the economically disadvantaged and how the Christian school can address their plight. The economic situation of today is increasing the threat of the availability and accessibility of Christian schooling for any family who desires it. Increasingly, a Christian school education is being priced out of the range of low to moderate income families, especially the urban poor. The Scriptures lay the foundation for not only Christian education, but also Christian education for anyone who desires it.

TEACHING TO TRANSFORM CHARACTER (Keynote)

In 1Timothy 1:5 (NASB) Paul states: "The goal of our instruction is..." Jesus stated that "everyone who is fully trained will be like..." Our instructions should be goal oriented. We teach to transform lives so that when our students are fully trained they will be like Jesus. This message will address instructing students so as to make the progression from formation to conformation to transformation.

THE ESSENCE OF CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION (Keynote)

The times are necessitating an alternative approach to educating this nation's young people. The need is for schools that will teach hearts as well as heads. A new generation of Christian schools is emerging. These schools are largely evangelistic in nature and provide the public with an education that represents the essence of biblical welfare. Giving a person, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, what is necessary in order to function effectively and successfully in the world thereby demonstrating the love of God.